

Dear Commissioners,

Despite its age, morse code remains a valuable mode for emergency radio communications when other more complex modes suffer a casualty. Even microwave amateur operators have resorted to CW out in the field when voice modes are not readable. And many served agencies have expressed interest in semi-secure radio communications of sensitive matter that should not be intercepted by the news media.

Accordingly, I urge the Commissioners to retain at least minimal morse code competence for the Amateur Extra license. And this should be demonstrated at a useful code speed such as 13 WPM.

It is important that morse code remain a viable mode on the Amateur Radio bands.

Best Regards,
Mike Manes, W5VSI
ARRL OES, Colo ARES HF NM